

INFORMATION REPORT CD NO.

COUNTRY Chile

DATE DISTR. 15 JAN 51

SUBJECT Communist Plans to Create Disturbances
in Chilean Coal Industry

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1. It is reported that Chilean Communist labor leaders in the Lota and Coronel coal mine regions intend to take advantage of the January 1951 negotiations, scheduled between the miners and the owners, to create serious disturbances. The miners are expected to present their employers with a list of demands of a routine nature, and the Communist leaders have approached the Socialist Labor leaders with a proposal to form a unified front when these negotiations take place.
2. The Socialists have not replied to the Communist proposition, since the Directorate of the Popular Socialist Party has decided that this problem should be resolved at the Party's national congress, which is scheduled for 12-13 January 1951 at Temuco, Chile. At this congress, the Communist proposal will be discussed by the Party's central committee, its department chiefs, its representatives in Congress, and its regional leaders.

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 Comment. It is not believed that even a successful coal strike at this time would constitute the same threat to the government that the serious coal strike of 1947 did. The government is in a better position to control such a situation, since storage facilities, at that time not existent, would make a coal strike less effective at this time.

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